



## Live Fire Focuses on Assault Tactics

By Sgt. Nick Minecci

**SHIMAMATSU TRAINING AREA, Hokkaido, Japan** – The crack of small arms fire echoed across the fields here Friday, mingled with the boom of 105mm rounds and mortar explosions, as soldiers from the Japan Ground Self Defense Force demonstrated their abilities for their U.S. counterparts during a live-fire exercise.

As approximately 60 soldiers from the JGSDF 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Northern Army, supported by two Type 74 tanks from the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's 11<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion engaged targets, Soldiers from Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) of the Maryland National Guard studied the tactics and procedures during Exercise North Wind 2004.

North Wind is an annual bilateral cold weather field training exercise sponsored by the U.S. Army, Japan and the JGSDF.

Approximately 400 Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry

(Light) of the 29<sup>th</sup> ID (L), also called Task Force Warrior, deployed here for the exercise. During North Wind each Task Force Warrior unit will conduct live-fire training with their Japanese counterparts.

"The [U.S.] forces will show the Japanese troops what a platoon does when it goes for an attack at the live-fire range," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Connelly, commander of Task Force Warrior.

Because the JGSDF has concentrated for decades on the defense of the islands, Connelly said an attack scenario is not a common focus for them, and he and his light fighters were look-



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

**Light fighters from Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) watch as their Japanese Ground Self Defense Force counterparts from 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., Northern Army, conduct live fire training at the Shimamatsu Training Area.**

Company A's 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad.

Watching the training, Sgt. Raymond Dix, a Glen Burnie, Md. resident assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Co. A, 175<sup>th</sup> Inf., said the chance to watch a combined arms live-fire was a great chance to observe allies in action.

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Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

**Staff Sgt. David Cook of Baltimore, Md., assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company A, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry, briefs his Soldiers about safety prior to a live-fire exercise.**

ing forward to the chance to give them new insights.

"Due to the current world situation, the Japanese are looking to evolve and learn more offensive tactics. [Task Force Warrior] can offer a more attacking style, and in return the Japanese are sharing their expertise with us in extreme cold weather training," Connelly said.

"I was impressed. The Japanese are very well disciplined and react to the commands of their leaders very fast," said Sgt. Jim Howard of Newburg, Md.

"The tank support was great. This is the first time I have seen a live fire from a tank, it was pretty cool," said Howard, a 17-year veteran, who is the Team B leader for



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

**First Lt. Yowong Kim (far right) conducts a snow table briefing for Capt. Michael Duplechain, commander of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry prior to live-fire training at Exercise North Wind '04. Also looking on are Spec. Kento Kudo, Spec. Jun-ichi Horiata and Cpl. Ken-ichi Sawamura of 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division, Northern Army, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Warren Monks of Co. A., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 175<sup>th</sup> Inf.**

# Japanese Media Capture Live Fire Training

By Spc. Kristin Crowder

**SHIMAMATSU TRAINING AREA, Hokkaido, Japan** - Members of the Japanese civilian media were perched atop a snow-encrusted hill overlooking the range below that would soon be used in a live-fire exercise involving U.S. Soldiers and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force soldiers Friday.

Several representatives from local television stations, the Kyodo wire service and newspapers were in attendance for Exercise North Wind 2004's Media Day.

Throughout the day, journalists could be found crouching and sometimes running alongside U.S. Soldiers from Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) and Japanese soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Division, in order to see the bilateral training forces in action.

The media interviewed Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Connelly, Task Force Warrior commander and Capt. Susumu Sawaguchi, 1<sup>st</sup> Company commander. About 60 soldiers from 1<sup>st</sup> Company participated in Friday's live-fire training exercise.

Friday's media turnout was higher than for previous field training exercises, according to U.S. Army, Japan Chief of Public Affairs Maj. Randy Cephus.

"There were about three times as many Japanese media present today than for Exercise Orient Shield in October because the [JGSDF's] deployment to Iraq is still fresh in their minds," he said.

Planning for North Wind's Media Day began approximately two months ago, with the public affairs offices of the JGSDF's 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and U.S. Army, Japan coordinating the activities. Then, one month prior to the exercise, a press announcement was released to civilian media. The PAOs were responsible for briefing the media, coordinating their transportation and even providing Kevlar helmets for them to wear at the training site.



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

Japanese media photograph Task Force soldiers during Media Day.

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"I think this is just great," Dix said. "It was pretty neat to watch the [Type 74s] come across and do their thing," he said.

As the Japanese troops glided past on skis, Dix said he admired their skill. "I liked to see how they approached on their skis, since I am a skier too," he said. "This is interesting because there are some really different things for us to see," the 17-year veteran light fighter added.

"I really hope that if the Japanese troops come to the United States we can give them the same type of amazing hospitality they have shown us ... this has been amazing," he said.

The chance to learn from coalition allies is also something Japanese troops are soaking up, according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kenichiro Koide, an intelligence officer with the JGSDF 10<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.

"I am very excited to be taking part in North Wind '04. [What] I want to learn

most from the U.S. Soldiers is basic combat skills," he said.

"What I am hoping we come away with from North Wind is a better understanding of how to move, how to conduct faster engagements. That kind of basic level training is very important to the JGSDF today and we can learn a lot from the U.S. Soldiers," Koide said.

The professional exchanges are not the only positive, he added. "During the day we have hard training, and at night we spend time together in the Friendship Hall. This is a very special opportunity for us all," he said.



Photo by Spc. Kristin Crowder

JGSDF soldiers lay down protective fire for an assault squad of skiers during a live-fire training exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

A pair of Type 74 tanks from the 11<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division fire in support of infantry troops during live fire training at the Shimamatsu Training Area.

*The North Wind* is published in support of North Wind 2004, at Takikawa and Shimamatsu Training Areas, Hokkaido, Japan, under provisions of the Department of the Army, by the 354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 99th Regional Readiness Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. The opinions and articles published in *The North Wind* are not necessarily reflective of official stances or policies of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense or U.S. Government. Circulation 500

## North Wind Public Affairs

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Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

Light fighters from Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Light), 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) prepare to be blasted by snow as a Black Hawk lands during air insertion training at the Shimamatsu Training Area during Exercise North Wind 2004.



Photo by Spc. Kristin Crowder

Spc. David Bowen of Silver Spring, Md., answers questions about a U.S. Humvee from Sgt. Osamu Kojima, 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., 11<sup>th</sup> Division.



Photo by Spc. Kristin Crowder

Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Connelly, Task Force Warrior commander, greets Maj. Gen. Makoto Hirose, chief, Education/Training Department, Ground Staff Office, upon the general's arrival to the training site.



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Co. A, 175<sup>th</sup> Inf. crack open their MREs.

February 21, 2004



## HOKKAIDO HUMOR

By Master Sgt. Steve Opet







Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

**Japanese Ground Self Defense Force soldiers move supplies on a sled during Exercise North Wind.**



Photo by Sgt. Nick Minecci

**Japanese signal soldiers keep contact with commanders on the firing line during Exercise North Wind.**



Photo courtesy of 11th Division Public Affairs, JGSDF

**Troops from Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division engage targets on Shimamatsu Training Area's live fire range.**



Photo by Spc. Kristin Crowder

**Japanese soldiers stomp snow into blocks to fortify the bunkers.**



Photo by Sgt. Kate Neuman

**Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Toshiyuki Yoshikawa removes snow to build a bunker before the U.S. Soldiers join the unit in the bilateral training.**



Photo courtesy of 11th Division Public Affairs, JGSDF

**Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, march to the firing line at the Shimamatsu Training Area during live fire training.**